



article entitled "Saigon Takes Reins of CIA School," which had appeared the previous day on the front page of the New York Times, and asked that a member of one of the CIA subcommittees inform the Senate as to the purported facts in this article.

The Senator from Minnesota described the article as "confused." He is right. The article deals with the South Vietnamese Government's training school for their revolutionary development training program. Much of it is inaccurate in implication as well as in fact.

In passing, it is noted that the Senator misquotes the article when he lists the article's final paragraph. The words "not happy" are used instead of "not unhappy." We are sure this change in the meaning as expressed in the article was inadvertent, and only mention it in the case someone reads the purported quote of the last paragraph but not the last paragraph itself.

The training school in question is not in Saigon. It is in Vung Tau, in the delta. The school was established in 1964 by the Central Intelligence Agency in order to train Vietnamese from the rural areas to defend themselves and their fellow villagers against the political and terrorist incursions of the Vietcong.

The prime objective of this program was to reestablish contact between the villagers and the local authorities, to revive the confidence of the villagers in their local government, and to enlist the active participation of the latter in the war against the Vietcong.

Since its inception, the training at this school has been done by the Vietnamese. The direction and control of the teams, once they return home to begin work, is entirely in the hands of the local district and province chiefs of the South Vietnamese Government.

From its inception, the Central Intelligence Agency has provided the logistic and financial support to the effort. The CIA has also provided civilians who advise provincial officials of the South Vietnamese Government on political and civil problems. This is done in much the same way that American military personnel advise the same officials on military matters.

As soon as the school was set up and running successfully, the Central Intelligence Agency initiated negotiating to turn over the entire program, including the school, to the South Vietnamese Government. These negotiations were concluded in November 1965, and the South Vietnamese took control in early February 1966.

The South Vietnamese Government thereupon revamped its Rural Construction Ministry and appointed General Thang the Minister of Revolutionary Development. General Thang took over the entire CIA-sponsored cadre as the core of his new Ministry's effort. At that time the general issued a series of decrees which formalized his country's direction and control of the school and the entire program.

The South Vietnamese Government specifically requested that the Central Intelligence Agency continue its logistic and financial support, as well as its ad-

THE FACTS WITH RESPECT TO THE  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 AND THE NATIONAL TRAINING  
 CENTER IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, earlier this week the Senior Senator from Minnesota inserted in the Record an ar-

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